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Society for the Preservation of Baked Clay Objects

Stanley South

University of South Carolina - Columbia, stansouth@sc.edu

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SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAKED CLAY OBJECTS

by Stanley South

As a result of the interest generated at the Institute by the numerous baked clay objects from the Charles Towne Site excavations, a meeting was held on April 18 at the home of Mr. Robert S. Lafaye, Jr., beautifully situated on the north shore of Lake Marion. The purpose of the get-together was to look at collections of baked clay objects made through the years by Bob Lafaye, Don Mackintosh and others. Since societies are formed for almost any purpose, this informal meeting quickly assumed the status of the S.P.B.C.O. and was properly christened. Present were Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Dr. E. Thomas Hemmings, Stanley South, Jewell South and children Robert and Lara, Robert Lafaye, Don Mackintosh, Gene Waddell and Dianne Hastings.

The examination of the baked clay objects from these collections revealed a range of forms with decorative punctations and shapes not noted before in the literature and consequently of considerable interest to these charter members of the Society. Through the generosity of the owners, the collections were borrowed for photographing and measuring at the Institute. The data obtained will be used in a detailed study of baked clay objects (or clay balls) that I will be preparing this summer.

A visit was made to two nearby sites where baked clay objects had been found, affording the members of the group the opportunity for some wading and grubbing up of potsherds from the submerged lakeshore sites. Thom's Creek, Deptford, fabric impressed, and cordmarked sherds were recovered.

Of additional interest to Dr. Hemmings was a collection of fluted points and other early projectile point types. Measurements and notes were taken on these specimens for use in a study that Dr. Hemmings is making of early stone artifacts from South Carolina.

Thus ended the first occasional meeting of the S.P.B.C.O. More will be heard from this society and its activities.

THE HOLIDAY INN ROCK SHELTER (31CD11)

Second Season

by Wade Carpenter
Gary Coleman
Fred Inman
Gene Johnson

(Editor's Note: During the "Interim Period" (the month between fall and spring semesters) at Wofford College, Dr. John Harrington, of the geology department of Wofford College, had four students pursue the small excavation project at this site that was begun in the 1969 Interim Period.